

February 2015

# GARNER

## UPDATE

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### IN THIS EDITION



Meeting on transit plan slated for Feb. 18. See page 2.



Showcase of Talent at GPAC Feb. 21. See page 3.

### TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Feb. 17: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Feb. 24: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

March 2: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

March 17: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



Follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner), Facebook (facebook.com/townofgarner), YouTube (youtube.com/townofgarner) and now Instagram (instagram.com/townofgarner).



Mayor Ronnie Williams (second from right) joined Gov. Pat McCrory (left) and the mayors from the six other Triangle municipalities getting Google Fiber at the announcement event in Raleigh on Jan. 27.

## Google Fiber Network to Be Expanded to Garner

Garner expects to reap significant economic-development and quality-of-life benefits as a result of Google's decision to bring super-high-speed Internet to the community, Town officials said.

"With the redevelopment of the Garner Technology Center, we're intending to make Garner a hotbed for science and technology. Google Fiber will help us succeed in this endeavor," Mayor Ronnie Williams said. "There are many exciting business and economic development opportunities in our rapidly growing town. Google Fiber will make our business climate even stronger."

Google officials, joined by Gov. Pat McCrory and mayors from Triangle

communities that will be getting Google Fiber, revealed that Garner would be one of only 18 communities nationwide to be getting the one-gigabit-per-second Internet service during the next phase of Google Fiber expansion.

The economic-development impact of Google Fiber is expected to be considerable, Town officials said. The service has encouraged the growth of startup companies in Kansas City, where Google Fiber is fully deployed. Garner officials anticipate similar economic impacts here.

Mayor Williams also pointed to ways that Google Fiber would

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Follow the Town of Garner on Twitter (@TownofGarner) for breaking news.



## A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's State of the Town address on demand at [youtube.com/townofgarner](http://youtube.com/townofgarner).

We just wrapped up the Town Council's annual planning retreat, and, from the looks of things, there is a lot of growth on the horizon for Garner. Of course, that's not



necessarily breaking news. You can look around town and see signs of the growth that's underway or is getting ready to unfold very soon.

All of the construction around the new Cabela's (look for the grand opening in the spring) is one obvious indication of the growth. The opening of the Aldi

and a couple of major multifamily residential projects are other prominent indicators, as is the new home construction in Sutton Springs, Eagle Ridge and elsewhere.

The construction of South Garner High School on Hebron Church Road is still another clear sign that Garner's growing. As we learned at the Council planning retreat, that area south of Timber Drive and east of Benson Road (N.C. 50) is primed to be an area of major growth in the years to come.

The Town of Garner Bond Program will also be an engine of growth and change. Its signature

projects include a new police station and Town Hall and an indoor recreation center at the corner of Main and Montague streets in our historic downtown.

But even though the prospects of this growth are exciting, it's essential that we maintain the hometown feel that makes Garner unique among its peer communities in the Triangle. We know this is what our citizens want, and we will work toward that goal.

*Ronnie S. Williams*

Ronnie S. Williams

## Google

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improve educational opportunities and the community's overall quality of life.

"We believe that Google Fiber will

create opportunities for our young people to better prepare themselves for the jobs of the future, and that's very important to us," the mayor said. "The Google Fiber network will also position our All-America City to become an even more engaged and innovative community as we move forward."

Google says it will spend the next several months working with Garner and other municipalities in its proposed Triangle-area fiber network to complete a detailed design for the project. After that, construction will begin. Google has yet to set a timeline for residents to sign up for Google Fiber service.

## County Officials to Hold Meeting Feb. 18 on Transit Report

Wake County officials are having an informational session on the Wake Transit Choices Report Wednesday,



Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers (building B) at Garner Town Hall, located at 900 Seventh Ave. There will be an opportunity for the public to learn about the report and to make comments and ask ques-

tions to presenters. Wake Transit is accepting public comments about the report until March 5. Citizens can go to [waketransit.com](http://waketransit.com) to take a survey and learn more about the report.

## TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

### Plans for Indoor Rec Center Taking Shape

The Town Council was updated at its Jan. 27 work session on progress being made on the design of the planned indoor recreation center at the corner of Main and Montague streets in historic downtown Garner.

The approximately 45,000-square-foot facility will feature three high school-size basketball courts, an arts room, multipurpose room, fitness/aerobics room and elevated track. There will also be men's and women's locker rooms and showers. Con-

struction on the project is expected to begin by early 2016 with anticipated completion in early 2017.

You can view the proposed floor plan for the indoor recreation center in the [agenda packet](#) for the Jan. 27 Town Council work session. The exterior design for the project has not been finalized.

For updates on the status of this and other Garner Bond Program projects, please visit [garnerbonds.com](http://garnerbonds.com).





## 2015 Showcase of Talent Stacked with Great Acts

The Town of Garner is proud to present the lineup for this year's Showcase of Talent, which will be held at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) on Feb. 21 with free shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.:

- Ari Moore (pianist)
- Blazen (dancers)
- Caleb and Ari Moore (pianist and drummer)
- G Squad (seniors dance team)
- Jackson Honeycutt (singer-songwriter)
- Johna Edmonds (vocalist-Miss North Carolina 2013)
- Josh Hamilton (singer-guitarist)
- Kayleigh Benedict (Irish dancers)
- LaShanda Brewington (singer)
- Leah April (singer-Teen Miss Garner)
- Leilani Carr (singer)
- Rachel Chavez (singer-Miss Garner)
- Teeghan De Norris Wiggins (singer)



This year's Showcase of Talent once again will close with a group finale by some of the area's finest performers.

- Arlington Priest (Jill and Rhett McAllister)

The entertainers will perform one song each with a group finale. The show is expected to run 60-75 minutes with no intermission. For more information on the Showcase of Talent and other upcoming shows at GPAC, please visit [garnerperformingartscenter.com](http://garnerperformingartscenter.com).

## 'Wicked' Singer Coming to GPAC for March 6 Show

Alli Mauzey, who last appeared on Broadway as Glinda in "Wicked," comes to GPAC on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the third and final show of the Broadway Voices season.



Alli Mauzey

Mauzey's other Broadway credits include Lenora in the musical "Cry-Baby," for which she won a Theatre World Award and was nominated for a Drama League Award. She also played Brenda in "Hairspray" on Broadway and in the original company of the first national tour.

Tickets for the show are \$35 and can be purchased at [garnerperformingartscenter.com](http://garnerperformingartscenter.com). The Broadway Voices series is made possible thanks to a partnership involving the Town, the Garner Chamber of Commerce and local arts supporters.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



## Rec Center Program Takes Youth to Hornets Game

On Jan. 19, the Avery Street Recreation Center after-school program took more than 40 students to a Charlotte Hornets game. The trip was organized by Victor Davis and his non-profit organization, Yield Inc. Those accompanying the students on the trip were recreation leaders from the Avery Street Recreation Center, Victor Jr. and Christian Wood. Two staff members from the Town of Garner traveled as well. For many of the youth, this was their first NBA game.





# Stallings Takes Economic Development Helm

Joe Stallings has assumed the role of economic development director for the Town of Garner. He began work in his new position on Jan. 26.

Stallings comes to Garner from the Town of Benson where he served as economic development and media coordinator for three and a half years. In that role, he was



Joe Stallings

responsible for all town economic development activities and media efforts and oversaw the town's Main Street program, grant programs and revolving loan fund.

"I am excited to have Joe join Garner's development services team," said John Hodges, assistant town manager-development services. "Joe brings a broad range of experience and an unbridled enthusiasm for economic development that will help us attract

new business and investment to Garner while nurturing and growing our existing base."

"I look forward to joining the Garner team and continuing with the great work that has already been done – especially working on the Garner Technology Center site," Stallings said.

Stallings holds a master's degree in public administration from Appalachian State University where he also received his bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in town, city and county management and a minor in planning.

He is a graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government's Municipal and County Administration Program and Essentials of Economic Development course as well as the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute. Stallings has served on the Benson Area Chamber of Com-

merce Board of Directors as well as the Johnston County Visitors Bureau Board.

The economic development director position became vacant last fall when Tony Beasley moved into the role of inspections director for the Town. Beasley served as economic development director for over six years and has continued to assist with economic development initiatives in addition to leading the Inspections Department during an extremely busy time.

In addition to Economic Development, the town's development services team includes the Planning, Inspections, Engineering departments, which work together to provide cohesive services, infrastructure and support to encourage and enable business development in Garner.

To contact Stallings, phone (919) 773-4431 or email [jstallings@garnernc.gov](mailto:jstallings@garnernc.gov).



Find all Town news releases at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).

# Budget Team Brings Home Distinguished Budget Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has presented the Town of Garner with the Distinguished Budget Presentation



Award for the Town's fiscal year 2014-15 budget. It is the 18th year that the Town has won the prestigious award.

The award reflects the commitment of the Town to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting, the GFOA said.

To receive the award, the Town had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a budget served as a budget document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories—and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories—to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for earning the award. This certificate has been presented to the Town's budget team, consisting of Town

Manager Hardin Watkins, Assistant Town Manager Rodney Dickerson, Finance Director Emily Lucas, Budget and Special Projects Manager Jamie Ludovic, Purchasing and Accounting Officer Marcey Hubbell and management fellow Michael Gammon.

"This award is a testament to the hard work of our budget team and to the Town's commitment to transparency and good communication with our citizens," Watkins said.

To read the award-winning budget document, please visit [garnernc.gov/Publications/Finance/2014-2015/Budget.pdf](http://garnernc.gov/Publications/Finance/2014-2015/Budget.pdf).

To learn more about the GFOA, please visit [gfoa.org](http://gfoa.org).